



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 8, No. 1

343 King's Highway East

February, 1965

CANDLELIGHT DINNER TO FEATURE ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION ON SOUTH JERSEY HISTORY TRAILS

The annual Candlelight Dinner Meeting has for many years been the high point of the Society's program. This year it promises to reach new heights of historical interest as well as social enjoyment with an illustrated presentation, "Along South Jersey History Trails," given by the Senior Photographer for National Parks Service, Mr. Jack E. Boucher.

The Tavistock Country Club is again the scene of the Dinner and Program. Those who attended last year know the excellence of the food and service which await members on Tuesday, February 23. The time is 6:15 P. M.; the cost is \$4.50 per person (gratuity included). Reservations must be received no later than February 19. Please make checks payable to the Historical Society of Haddonfield and mail to Reservation Chairman, Mrs. John S. Wood, Jr., 535 Narberth Ave., Haddonfield. Telephone HA 9-8586.

Tickets will not be issued. If your check has been mailed, your reservation will be held for you. This arrangement spares the Chairman much time and labor.

Through our new president, Mr.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 23

TIME: 6:15 P. M.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

PLACE: Tavistock Country Club

RESERVATIONS: Mail check payable to Historical Society of Haddonfield to Mrs. John S. Wood, Jr., 535 Narberth Avenue, Haddonfield. No tickets issued.

Louis H. Goettelmann, we have been most fortunate to have Mr. Boucher bring to the meeting his unique collection of photographs which center around historical trails in Atlantic County, Batsto, the Wharton Tract, Greenwich, Cape May and Allaire. His presentation will be further illuminated by a commentary on some of the folk lore and traditions of the areas.

Mr. Boucher, a resident of South Jersey for most of his life, has been a professional photographer for fifteen years. Serving now as a senior photographer for the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, he has photographed nearly 600 historic areas and buildings

(Continued on page three)

MORE NOTES ON EARLY JERSEY SCIENTISTS AND PATRIOTS RECALL EMINENT SPEAKER AT '64 CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Many of you recall the excellent talk given at last year's dinner by Whitfield J. Bell Jr., associate librarian of the American Philosophical Society and associate editor of "The Papers of Benjamin Franklin," on "Scientists and Patriots: Early Jersey Members of the American Philosophical Society."

Excerpts from this speech were printed in last May's issue of the Bulletin with a promise of more to come. It seems appropriate now as we celebrate George Washington's birthday to recall those eminent men in this state who lived in Washington's time and contributed so much to the scientific, patriotic and cultural life of the new nation.

Of the members of the two constituent societies and of the American Philosophical Society which was formed by their union in 1769, one can say that, logically, they fall into three or possibly four categories. Actually, of course, one cannot always describe a member so neatly; several fall quite readily into at least two of these divisions.

First, there were the men who were elected because they held positions of prominence, usually political prominence, in the community. Probably Robert Hunter Morris and Governor William Franklin belong to this group. In electing such persons to membership, the Society followed the practice of the Royal Society and the Society of Arts, which customarily elected noblemen, regardless of whether they had any pretensions to learning. America before the Revolution followed some of the aristocratic manners of Britain, and this was one of them. Such members, it may be said in passing, contributed little to the Society; they never read papers and rarely attended a meeting.

Secondly, there was a group of men of genuine scholarly prominence and reputation, several of them members of the faculty of Princeton, like President John Witherspoon, who might properly be asked to join a learned society, although their interests were not primarily or at all in the field of science and practical arts which the majority of the members cultivated.

Thirdly, one might distinguish a group of men who are primarily recorders and observers of scientific data, which they sent to other scientifically-minded men, or to the Society, or sometimes to a newspaper or magazine for publication. In consequence of the interest thus revealed, they won modest reputations in the circle of the philosophers. These men might be country clergymen who kept a course of weather observations, intelligent farmers who found some freak of nature, surveyors or self-taught mathematicians who could solve difficult problems in trigonometry or made astronomical observations. Dr. William Bryant of Trenton was such a man. A physician and farmer, with at least a mild curiosity about nature, Bryant collected curious specimens of natural history and examples of Indian craftsmanship, which he sent to Pierre DuSimitiere, a Frenchman who was assembling at Philadelphia the first American museum of civil and natural history. Among these gifts were a wasp's nest of the size of an apple, fastened to a twig, an Indian stone pestle, an Indian stone pot, arrow heads (ploughed up on the Bryant farm), and a sword found in the Delaware.

In addition to his activity as a collector, Bryant is the author of a short study of the electric eel. These creatures excited a good deal of interest in the 1770s, partly because their powers are sufficiently remarkable in any event, but partly, of course, because anything electrical was of highest concern to the scientists of the 18th century.

The fourth category were the patriotic improvers and inventors, men like Charles Read, the agriculturist, Richard Wells and Edward Antill, who in addition to a reputation for liberal education and a talent for observation and recording, were impressed by the special challenge of America at the end of the 18th century, and sought to respond by doing all in their power to improve agriculture, manufactures, and commerce. They were generous-minded men, men of vision, sometimes visionaries, who heartily wished the public prosperity and endeavored to achieve it.

Edward Antill of New Brunswick was one of the most outstanding of such improvers. Public officer, farmer, and above all an experimenter with, and propagandist for, the cultivation of wine grapes, Antill was a typical patriot. When the London Society of Arts in 1762 offered a premium for a colonial who

produced at least 500 vines producing wine of the sorts most commonly consumed in Great Britain, Antill entered the competition. A study of soil and climate had convinced him that viticulture in America was not only practicable but would also prove profitable. He laid out a vineyard in 1764, put 800 plants in the ground the first year, and made a practice of giving slips and instructions to anyone interested. The Society of Arts voted him their premium, and this recognition brought Antill to the attention of others in America. He was elected to the American Society in consequence.

What American farmers needed most was to be convinced that the raising of grapes was possible and desirable. To overcome their ignorance, indifference and resistance, Antill issued public appeals and finally compiled a long treatise on the subject, which was printed by the APS and for fifty years thereafter

(Continued on page four)

NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY AIMS TO SAVE WHITE HORSE TAVERN

An enthusiastic group of historically-minded persons are in the process of forming a new Historical Society in the Central Camden County area, extending from Barrington to Berlin. Mr. William Mihms of Lindenwold is the chief organizer and leader of the movement which has as its immediate goal the preservation and restoration of the old White Horse Tavern in Stratford.

The new Society will be known as the White Horse Historical Society and will make its home in the White Horse Tavern if it is successful in obtaining and restoring this historic landmark.

According to the recent book published by the Camden County Historical Society and written by Charles S. Boyer, "Old Inns and Taverns in West Jersey," the White Horse Tavern was one of the earliest county taverns. Situated on the White Horse Pike, ten miles below Camden, the White Horse Tavern was granted its first tavern license in 1767 but reference is made to the building as the home of Elizabeth Bates as early as 1751.

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE INVITES MEMBERS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

Mrs. John W. Danenhower, chairman of the Woman's Committee, invites members to join the committee meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 A. M. Meetings are held at Greenfield Hall; coffee and buns are served before each meeting.

(Continued from page one)

throughout the country and its possessions, contributing a file of more than 4,000 photographs to the Historic American Building Survey Archives at the Library of Congress.

The American Association for State and Local History recently presented Mr. Boucher its annual "Award of Merit" for his "excellent, comprehensive coverage of historic sites and structures in South Jersey." This collection was accomplished as a spare time project, the outgrowth of Mr. Boucher's hobby—South Jersey history.

You may have seen Mr. Boucher's photos in books, magazines and journals, national and international, in which they have appeared. His collections have been exhibited throughout the East and he has presented numerous color slide lectures to historical societies, camera clubs and civic organizations.

Among his many activities and honors, he holds active membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society of Architectural Historians, Professional Photographers of America, New Jersey State and various County Historical Societies. Mr. Boucher is at present the Chairman of the Batsto Citizens' Advisory Committee and President of the Atlantic County Historical Society. The New Jersey State Senate recently presented him with an illuminated resolution for his recently published book on South Jersey History, "*Abse-gami Yesteryear*."

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Mrs. James J. Lennon
154-B Haddon Hills Apts.
Haddonfield, N.J.

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 118

Haddonfield, N. J.

FORM #3517 REQUESTED

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

4

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES—1965

Once a year the Society includes in its Bulletin a complete list of the newly-elected officers and trustees and the appointed chairmen of committees. It is suggested that members retain this list throughout the year as a convenient means of contacting these people if necessary as well as recognizing the overall activities program of the Society.

OFFICERS

President Mr. Louis H. Goettelmann
1st Vice President Mr. Edwin J. Pearson
2nd Vice President Mr. Harry A. Bauer
3rd Vice President Mr. Joseph M. Tatem
Treasurer Mr. D. Irving Taylor
Corresponding Secy. Mrs. Edward W. Jennings
Recording Secy. Mrs. Beatrice Cox Morgan

TRUSTEES

Terms expire, 1965:

Mrs. Robert J. Dalton
Mr. Charles H. Evans
Mr. Jesse G. Haydock, Jr.
Mr. Herbert R. Leicht
Mrs. David S. Lenhart

Terms expire, 1966:

Mrs. Harry P. Atkinson
Mr. John H. Cunningham, Sr.
Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Sr.
Mr. M. Elmond Neeley, Jr.
Mrs. Howard S. Tilton

Terms expire, 1967:

Mrs. E. Chandlee Archer
Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann
Mrs. Edward E. Krauss, Jr.
Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr.
Mr. John S. Wood, Jr.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Bulletin Editor Mrs. James G. Aiken
Counsel Howard S. Tilton, Esq.
Curator Mrs. R. B. Carl
Asst. Curator Mrs. T. Paul Sims, Jr.
Historian Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Sr.
Librarian Mrs. Ellwood E. Hess

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES 1964-1965

Acquisition Herbert R. Leicht
Budget and Finance Edwin J. Pearson
Education Mrs. James J. Lennon
Exhibit Mrs. Raymond Armstrong
Hip Roof House Mr. and Mrs. Robt. J. Dalton
History Book Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Jr.
Harry A. Bauer, Ex. Sec.
Hospitality Mrs. William E. Moody
House Mrs. Meritt W. Pharo
Inventory Mrs. James J. Lennon
Membership C. Wilder Marsh
Preservation of Records Mrs. Ellwood E. Hess
Program M. Elmond Neeley, Jr.
Property John S. Wood, Jr.
Publicity Mrs. James G. Aiken
Woman's Mrs. John W. Danenhower

(Continued from page three)

served as the principal authority and source of information on the subject. He was interested in other agricultural improvement as well, proposing methods of winter feeding of livestock with boiled potatoes, new methods of raising and preparing hemp, and raising rhubarb for its medicinal virtues. Throughout Antill's letters to the Society of Arts and to the APS one theme is recurrent—that this is one of the things an enlightened man should do. "What have Arts & Sciences to do with Politics," he once asked; "or Navigation, Agriculture & Manufacture with great men in opposition? . . . But let Philosophy (science), let the love of mankind soar above these foot-balls of fortune, & generously unite in the discovery of truth & of things profitable for the cause and happiness of mankind."